

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 179425
ORIGIN EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGRE-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08
INR-10 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-07 TRSE-00 FRB-03
OMB-01 OPIC-03 XMB-02 DOE-15 SOE-02 ICA-11 /081 R

DRAFTED BY EA/PHL:JSARTORIUS/E:AGEBER:MLB
APPROVED BY EA:EHEGINBOTHAM
EA/PHL:JCMONJO

-----045455 151817Z /73

R 150854Z JUL 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MANILA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ASEAN, E

SUBJECT: ASEAN MINISTERIAL--MEETING WITH VALDEPENAS

1. DAS HEGINBOTHAM AND ASEAN COORDINATOR GEBER MET WITH PHILIPPINE DEPUTY MINISTER OF TRADE VALDEPENAS JULY 7 FOR NEARLY TWO HOURS TO CONVEY OUR VIEWS AND TO IDENTIFY AREAS WHERE THERE IS NEED FOR GREATER FOCUS PREPARATORY TO THE AUGUST MINISTERIAL. VALDEPENAS, WHO WAS TRANSITING WASHINGTON AS HEAD OF A GOP TEXTILE TERM RETURNING TO THE PHILIPPINES FROM EUROPE, HAD REQUESTED THE MEETING. EXPERIENCED IN ASEAN TRADE MATTERS, HE WILL BE COORDINATING ASEAN TRADE POSITIONS FOR THE UPCOMING MINISTERIAL FOLLOWING HIS ARRIVAL BACK IN MANILA.

2. IN OPENING THE DISCUSSIONS, VALDEPENAS CONFIRMED WHAT WE LEARNED EARLIER THAT ASEAN ECONOMIC MINISTERS FOUND U.S. RESPONSE TO ASEAN'S ELEVEN MEMORANDA "QUITE NEGATIVE".

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DURING A FRANK EXCHANGE ON THE COMMON FUND AND STABEX ISSUES WE INDICATED NO CHANGE IN U.S. POSITIONS SINCE LAST YEAR'S US-ASEAN CONSULTATIONS. VALDEPENAS PERSONALLY AGREED THAT IT WAS UNREALISTIC FOR ASEAN TO PURSUE THESE QUESTIONS WHEN THERE WERE OTHER AREAS FOR BUILDING AND DEVELOPING MUTUAL COOPERATION.

3. DAS HEGINBOTHAM THEN SUGGESTED THAT IT WOULD BE HIGHLY DESIRABLE IF BOTH SIDES WOULD APPROACH AUGUST MINISTERIAL IN A POSITIVE FRAME OF MIND. WHILE WE SHOULD NOT EXPECT SPECTACULAR RESULTS, WE FORESEE TWO MAIN BENEFITS. HOLDING THE MEETING IN WASHINGTON WILL GIVE ASEAN NEEDED EXPOSURE AND GREATER IMPACT ON KEY U.S. EXECUTIVE BRANCH, CONGRESSIONAL, AND MEDIA LEADERS. SECONDLY, WE ARE HOPING TO LAY THE GROUNDWORK FOR EVOLVING CLOSER COOPERATION IN AREAS WHERE WE BELIEVE MOVEMENT IS POSSIBLE. WHILE MINISTERIAL CANNOT BE EXPECTED TO UNDERTAKE SOME OF THE DETAILED, TECHNICAL WORK WHICH IS NEEDED FOR RESULTS TO BE IMMEDIATELY OR FULLY APPARENT IT SHOULD PROVIDE GUIDELINES ON HOW TO PROCEED OVER THE LONG-RUN IN BUILDING A FOUNDATION FOR THE FUTURE INVOLVEMENT AND DEEPENING OF US-ASEAN RELATIONSHIPS.

4. AMONG THE AREAS IN WHICH THE U.S. IS PREPARED TO MOVE FORWARD: INVESTMENT FACILITATION--IN AUGUST WE WILL ANNOUNCE THE SENDING OF AN OPIC INVESTMENT MISSION TO ASEAN COUNTRIES LATER THIS YEAR. BUSINESS COOPERATION--THE USG HAS TAKEN THE LEAD IN SUPPORTING THE FORMATION OF A ASEAN-US BUSINESS COUNCIL. REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION--WE ARE READY TO EXPLORE SEVERAL POSSIBILITIES; ALTHOUGH ANTICIPATED US FUNDING LEVELS MAY NOT BE STRIKING, THE ASSISTANCE COULD BRING TO BEAR INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO SOLVING PROBLEMS OF CONCERN TO ASEAN. ENERGY--IF ASEAN IS INTERESTED, THE VICE PRESIDENT'S RECENT REGIONAL INITIATIVE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COULD BE THE BASIS FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION. EXIM--ALTHOUGH STRICTLY SPEAKING THESE LOANS ARE NOT CONCESSIONAL, ANOTHER DEVELOPMENT-RELATED ACTION WILL BE THE VISIT OF CHAIRMAN MOORE TO THE ASEAN COUNTRIES THIS NOVEMBER. CULTURAL/ EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE--WE ARE WILLING TO DISCUSS A US EXPANDED REGIONAL PROGRAM WHICH WOULD BE SUPPLEMENTAL TO OUR BILATERAL ACTIVITIES IN THIS FIELD.

5. RECOGNIZING THAT ASEAN ATTACHES STRONG IMPORTANCE TO COMMODITY AND TRADE ISSUES, WE OUTLINED US CONSTRAINTS FROM AN OVERALL POLICY STANDPOINT, AND THOSE INHERENT IN OTHER CONSIDERATIONS, AS TO WHAT CAN BE DONE UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES. HOWEVER, CERTAIN ELEMENTS OF ASEAN INTERESTS CAN BE ACCOMMODATED- WE NOTED THAT THE USG REMAINS OPEN-MINDED ON THE QUESTION OF NEGOTIATING INDIVIDUAL COMMODITY AGREEMENTS. WE PARTICULARLY STRESSED THE OVERRIDING IMPORTANCE OF MAKING MAXIMUM PROGRESS IN THE MTN AND PARTICULARLY FOR THE GOP TO SHOW GREATER NEGOTIATING FLEXIBILITY. VALDEPENAS AGREED TO CONTACT AMBASSADOR VEGA AND INFLUENCE HIM IN THAT DIRECTION.

6. COMMENT: WE AND VALDEPENAS FOUND THE DIALOGUE USEFUL.

VALDEPENAS SHOULD BE CAPABLE OF CONVEYING AN ACCURATE PERSPECTIVE AND SENSE OF REALISM AS TO WHAT CAN BE EXPECTED OF THE US TO HIS COLLEAGUES WITHIN ASEAN COUNCILS PRIOR TO THE MINISTERIAL, HOPEFULLY WITH SOME BENEFICIAL INFLUENCE ON ASEAN DELIBERATIONS ON HOW TO ADDRESS ITSELF TO THE US ON VARIOUS ISSUES. CHRISTOPHER

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PAGE 01 STATE 179425
ORIGIN EB-08

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 EA-10 /032 R

66011

DRAFTED BY:EB/OT/GCP:MBAAS

APPROVED BY:EB/OT/GCP:JSLATTERY

EA/PHL:JSARTORIUS

-----043764 250719Z /13

R 241921Z JUL 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA

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USMTN

FOLLOWING REPEAT SECSTATE ACTION MANILA JUL 15. QUOTE

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AL USE STATE 179425

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ASEAN, E

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MINISTERIAL MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE179425
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JSARTORIUS/E:AGEBER:MLB
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780291-0298
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From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Litigation History:
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Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
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Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 may 2005
Review Event:
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Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1994512
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ASEAN MINISTERIAL--MEETING WITH VALDEPENAS
TAGS: PORG, ETRD, US, RP, ASEAN, (GEBER, TONY), (VALDEPENAS)
To: MANILA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/fec70773-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014